Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

SECRETSTATE 175486

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

- 1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.
- 2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER: I AM DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY TODAY'S VOTE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEFEATING LEGISLATION TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I HAVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATEMENT: "I AM DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY THE REFUSAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTIALLY LIFT THE EMBARGO ON THE SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO TURKEY. IT IS MY STRONG CONVICTION THAT THIS NEGATIVE VOTE CAN ONLY DO THE SECRET

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MOST SERIOUS AND IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE VITAL NATIONAL

SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING OUR NORMALLY EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY, U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, AND U.S. EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS TO REACH A JUST AND EQUITABLE CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. IT WILL ALSO SERIOUSLY

AFFECT IMPORTANT INTERESTS ELSEWHERE.

I AND MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION WORKED HARD TO PER-SUADE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT VITAL. NATIONAL DEFENSE INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE IN THIS ISSUE. I AM VERY PROUD OF THOSE 206 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OF BOTH PARTIES, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE WHO SUP-PORTED A SIMILAR MEASURE. FOR CASTING THEIR VOTES IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS OF THE BI-PARTISAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO SUPPORTED THE LEGISLATION. I WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING AN EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS DISPUTE. I WILL WORK TO REASSURE OUR ALLIES, TURKEY AND GREECE, OF OUR CON-TINUING DESIRE TO MAINTAIN STRONG AND EFFECTIVE RELATION-SHIPS WITH THEM DESPITE THIS SET-BACK. I HOPE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL RECONSIDER ITS FAILURE TO ACT AFFIRMATIVELY."

THE CLOSE HOUSE VOTE, DISAPPOINTING AS IT WAS, DOES NOT NEGATE THE VALIDITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. INDEED, MANY LEGISLATORS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO INDICATE THAT THEY WERE NOT VOTING AGAINST TURKEY OR US TIES WITH TURKEY, BUT RATHER WISHED TO REGISTER THEIR CONCERN THAT PROGRESS HAD NOT BEEN MADE IN DEALING WITH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

I BELIEVE CONGRESS HAS MADE A SERIOUS ERROR IN JUDGMENT. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES THAT THIS LEGISLATIVE DECISION NOT BE COMPOUNDED BY HASTY STEPS TAKEN IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF DISAPPOINTMENT.

WE ARE NOW ASSESSING THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE AND STUDYING SECRET

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COURSES OF ACTION OPEN TO US TO HELP PRESERVE THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES. IT IS FORTUNATE THAT I WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THESE POSSIBILITIES WITH YOU NEXT WEEK IN HELSINKI. I VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO THAT MEETING. CORDIALLY, GERALD A. FORD END TEXT. KISSINGER

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Subject: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, TU, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (DEMIREL, SULEYMAN)

To: ANKARA ATHENS NICOSIA

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006